

Minutes of the Meeting
State Soil Conservation Board
Indiana Government Center South
February 14, 2006
Indianapolis IN 46204

Present

Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Warren Baird
Gary Langell
Craig Beyrouty
Jim Cherry
Larry Clemens
Bill Mann
Tammy Lawson

Others Present

W. Gene Weaver, IASWCD
Cris Goode, ISDA
Jerod Chew, ISDA
Waneta J. Lowe, ISDA
Jim Droege, IASWCD
DeeDee Sigler, IASWCD
Michael Huber, OMB
Gary Doxtater, IWF
Chris Tippie, NRCS
Andrew Pelloso, IDEM
Martha Clark Mettler, IDEM

- I. Call to Order: Bob Eddleman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- II. Introduction of new Board Member: Tammy Lawson introduced the newest State Soil Conservation board member, Jim Cherry, from Hancock County. Jim is a 4th generation farmer, has two sons, and five grandchildren. He has been a supervisor in Hancock County SWCD for eight years and will continue as an associate supervisor.
- III. Draft Minutes: Approval of the minutes of January 17, 2006 was moved by Nola Gentry and seconded by Bill Mann and motion carried.
- IV. Supervisor Resignations/Appointments: Waneta Lowe presented for approval two new supervisor appointments. Spencer County, Michael Roos and Dubois County, Jack A. Welp. Both will be temporary appointments until the next annual meeting in 2007 due to not meeting requirements resulting in no election at the 2006 annual meeting. Motion to approve by Bill Mann, seconded by Warren Baird, and motion carried.
- V. Division of Soil Conservation Director's Report:
 - A. Clean Water Indiana: Tammy Lawson reported that Clean Water Indiana grants were being submitted. DSC encourages all districts to submit a proposal(s).
 - B. Stormwater & Sediment Control: Four Stormwater Specialist positions are being transferred to IDEM along with four vehicles.

DNR transferred funds for the Rule 5 projects done for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 and will be going out to the Districts once we can verify the amounts with Districts.

Two DSC projects funding through 319 grants have been completed and submitted to IDEM. The products of those projects, a Stormwater Quality Manual and Training Program will be utilized by IDEM's Stormwater program.

C. Agricultural Assistance:

DSC has one vacant RS position. We are evaluating workload to decide the best placement for this position.

FSA consolidations are causing some districts to consider collocation in another county. Rush, Shelby, and Hancock counties are considering consolidation. There is some concern about finances from counties and how their county will be serviced. Talk among staff and supervisors were very positive and proactive. ISDA, DSC will be supportive of the decisions as they are made.

1. CREP Update: Jerod Chew reported that \$56,000 has been allocated so far in CREP. Spring practices to come in. Our CREP program is on DSC website. We are working with Chad Frahm on easements and ISDA/DNR agreement in attorneys hands. DNR will hold easements. There will be another CREP meeting next month.

D. District Support:

Jerod reported that District Annual Meetings were going well.

DSC has one vacant District Support Specialist (DSS) position in the South East region. We are currently looking to fill this position.

The DSSs will schedule new supervisor orientations on an individual basis in their regions.

On March 9, DSC will host a Supervisor Workshop for all Supervisors. The workshop will be held simultaneously in each of the eight regions across the state. DSC will utilize Purdue's video conferencing system. Bob Eddleman will emcee the event. Event speakers will include Representative Bill Friend, Knox County Councilman Steve Thais, Knox County SWCD Supervisor Ray Chatten and Purdue CES Director Mike Manning. Topics will include: the importance of Districts, working with county officials, a supervisor's point of view and a human resources presentation.

Nola Gentry suggested the addition of a County Commissioner to the agenda. Tammy Lawson asked Nola for recommendations for County Commissioners.

Nola Gentry stated that Katie Benson would be good to recommendation.

See Attachment

VI. Public Comment:

- A. Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF): Gary Doxtater from the Indiana Wildlife Federation was moved up on agenda. Gary gave a presentation on IWF and their opportunities for landowners to improve wildlife habitat, to develop manpower to help landowners partner with the County partners and SWCDs.

See Attachment

VII. SSCB Chairman's Report:

Bob Eddleman stated that the March State Soil Conservation Board meeting will be in a location in SE Indiana. Locations under consideration were the Riverboat in Rising Sun, Clifty Falls State Park, or the Jennings County Library in North Vernon. It was decided by consensus that DSC would pursue booking either Clifty Falls or the Jennings County Library. Next quarter the SSCB will meet in a NW location.

Bob stated that some "discussion time" would be set aside at the end of this and every SSCB meeting.

VIII. IDEM Report: Andrew Pelloso reported that the 319 projects are the same as last year. As far as budget they are unsure of the dollar amount for the upcoming 319 Grants, due to many factors. The previous 75/25 match on the 319 Grant program will now change to a 60/40 match. The EPA is looking at the 319 Grant funds and we need to stay on track.

There is a new much simpler application for Watershed Specialists.

IDEM is working on a new approach for Rule 5. There will be a survey sent out to all Districts asking where they are and where they want to be, etc. IDEM only has funding for four positions for this program, so they need to prioritize on site visits.

The SSCB requested to view the results of the survey.

The IDEM website is under renovation and to be completed sometime in April, 2006.

IX. State Association President's Report

Gene Weaver stated that the consolidation of Indiana FSA offices will only have positive implications for Indiana Agriculture.

SB 314 passed the Senate 50-0 and was referred to House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

Gene reported on IASWCD conference and the NACD conference. Both were a great success.

Gene mentioned that IASWCD named DeeDee Sigler Interim Executive Director since Dean Farr resigned last month.

See Attachment

X. NRCS State Conservationist's Report

Standing in for Xavier Montoya was Chris Tippie.

NRCS is working on sign up's for the Wildcat Creek Watershed through the end of March. There will be more watershed sign ups.

Bob Eddleman asked about the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Chris stated that there was \$342 Million for next year. Upper White Watershed will be included. This is a one time signup, they need to stretch the funds as much as they can, not all projects will be funded.

Warren Baird asked about NRCS grants for Districts. Chris said that there was a news release through IASWCD.

See Attachment

XI. Farm Service Agency Report- No Report

XII. SSCB Discussions

CWI Grants

March 1 is the deadline for proposals. DSC will convert grants into electronic files for SSCB review prior to March 14 meeting. DSC will schedule meeting rooms for breakout SSCB committees to meet after the March 14 meeting to narrow down proposals to recommendations. The SSCB requested DSC provide them with a ranking sheet to save on time.

Discussion followed regarding the FSA office closings and their impact.

XIII. Next Meeting: March 14, 2006 , 9 am @ Jennings County Library

XIV. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Meeting Minutes Prepared by: Waneta Lowe

Approved By:
